

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

As Red Flag flies it's time to...

STAND FIRM!

In an atmosphere charged with emotion and fervour and by a majority of more than two to one, Hackney Council took what could be an historic decision on 7 March. They voted to defy the law and say to the Government: "We cannot set a rate for next year until you give us back the money you owe us."

The Council chamber was packed out and video cameras relayed the proceedings live to the hundreds of people jammed into the Assembly Hall behind the chamber. As the final vote was taken, by a happy chance that of George Wintle, the only Liberal to break ranks with his party and join 39 Labour councillors in voting for the decision, tumultuous applause broke out, the Red Flag and Here We Go were sung and Council Leader Hilda Kean's face broke out into a broad smile of relief. Most of her party had stood firm against the threat of surcharge, of disqualification, even of prison.

Most of all, the vote was a victory for the people of Hackney who had stood outside before the meeting, who had been on the Hackney procession a week before. It was a vote for a campaign that will continue, as Hilda Kean said in her speech, inside and outside the Council chamber, together with other councils, with the trade unions, the community organisations and the people of the borough.

The meeting started on a note of high emotion when Glenn Turner of the South Wales NUM read out a letter on behalf of his area and the Nottinghamshire Striking Miners thanking the people of Hackney for their help and support for the people of the mining communities during the strike. The staggering sum of £110,000 has been collected by the Hackney Miners Support Committee during the strike. The miners received a standing ovation and deafening round of applause as they collected souvenir medals from



Hilda Kean speaks.

the Mayor. (For more about the miners see page 4.)

The meeting proper began with a motion not to increase the rents on Council properties "at this stage". This was, of course, opposed by the three Tories, who proposed an amendment to put up rents by an average of £1.50 per week. Housing Committee chair John Bloom countered this with a typically pugnacious speech.

"Rents in the past have been put up by more than the

level of inflation," he said. "There is no way in which this Labour council is going to put up the rents in this borough. If the Tories want to do it, then let them do it." The motion was carried with the Tories and all the Liberals, except George Wintle, voting against.

Options

Hilda Kean began her speech proposing the main motion not to set a rate by describing the options the Council faced.

"We have to decide whether this is a Labour Council that is committed to being accountable to local needs or whether it is a Council which is merely a tool of this Conservative government. What we are doing tonight is deciding whether we continue to be accountable to those who elected us or whether we are voting for policies rejected time and time again by the people of this borough."

Last year, she said, the Council had campaigned on the slogan of being Britain's poorest borough. There was 24% unemployment, the Council was now the biggest single employer, there was a growing number of elderly people and children relying on the Council's services. They had not used the slogan this year because it implied that Hackney was downtrodden and could not organise against the Government's attacks.

This was refuted by the self activity of the people of the borough, seen in such events as the Hackney procession, the Under Fives day, the pensioners talent competition, the meeting organised by the Hackney African



John Bloom, Chris Spencer and supporters in good voice.

Association, the national demonstration and the rally outside before the Council meeting. All of these demonstrated people organising together against the Tory attacks.

"We are presenting tonight a modest budget," she went on. It would maintain jobs and services but would not go towards meeting the needs of the people of the borough. People at the budget consultation conference had said that much more needed to be done.

Included in the motion was the demand that £70 million rate support grant taken from the borough since 1979 be returned.

Expense

"It is certainly not the case that the money does not exist with central Government," said Kean. She listed some of the recent expenditures of the Government: £5.2 billion spent on trying to break the miners strike, £2.7 billion to be spent on

the Falklands, £700 million on the Trident missile programme. Money spent on intelligence gathering and telephone tapping.

"It was not just a question of the local government finance system," she added. "What we're seeing is that the Government through the Rates Act, is trying to overturn the traditional relationship between Councils and central Government. What the Government is saying is that yes, you can have elections, you can vote in socialist councils, as long as when it comes to major decisions you carry out Tory policies. The Government is undermining local democracy and the votes of local people. If Patrick Jenkin refuses to recognise the problems of the borough emanating from monetarist policies then there will be chaos in the inner cities. Chaos caused by the Government's disregard of the needs of working class people."

The Liberal leader, David

Continued on page 2

STAND FIRM!

Continued from page 1.

Gamper, then tried to move a procedural motion to defer discussion of the budget to the next meeting. This lame attempt predictably ended in failure as his motion was thrown out without debate. The only Liberal who in fact spoke in the main debate was George Wintle, who bravely defied the rest of his party and in the end voted with the majority of the Labour group. He explained why he would do this on the grounds of taking a moral stand even though threatened with the possible consequences of disqualification and bankruptcy. "There is still something of a moral stigma about bankruptcy," he said. "But when talking about morals, I must ask myself what

not give in and we shall say to whoever comes for us, no surrender!"

Line

Once the Tory amendment had been defeated Charles Clarke was on his feet to propose what he called a "minor" technical amendment. This was, he said, to bring Hackney into line with the other rate-capped councils, such as Sheffield, Lambeth and Islington. His amendment merely inserted the phrase "at this stage" in the Council's motion, and had already been proposed and defeated at the Labour group meeting. It was a divisive tactic to bring it forward again

surprising bottlers-out were hissed as they cast their vote. The Liberals and the Tories were all saying no. Then the last votes were taken.

"Brian Weller" - "For"; "Martin Whitfield" - "For"; "George Wintle" - a fractional pause, then his reply "For". There was a huge burst of applause.

Wintle, a quiet scoutmasterly looking sort of person, sat blinking, not smiling. His fellow Liberals looked appalled. Nearly all the rest of the councillors were on their feet, John Bloom waving a red flag he had brought along for the occasion.

A chorus of "Here We Go" was sung and then, clenched fists in the air, the "Red Flag". In the Assembly room behind the same pandemonium reigned. Political opponents who had not spoken for years shook hands and hugged each other.

It was all over then, including the shouting. The meeting itself dragged on a while longer with a pointless motion from the Tories debated.

Funds

Speaking at the budget consultation conference two weeks before the council meeting, Deputy Leader Andrew Puddephat repeated the Council's assurance: "We don't have the resources to carry out the Budget. There are no contingency plans, no secret funds, no financial manoeuvres."

If this is true this would dispell the rumour that has persisted since that the government itself owes Hackney some £10 million in back DHSS payments.

Out in the streets Hackney carried on its normal lam life. The late night take-aways were still busy. A police car cruised past. Councillors made their way to their cars.

Hackney does not want or need the fiasco that surrounded the GLC/ILEAs rate-setting meeting. The Labour vote in Hackney was as united as it will ever be around the issue. It will need discipline and courage to fight the government and its SDP agents who are trying to do its dirty work for it. The Council will need the strength and support of the people of Hackney if we are all to win this historic struggle.

ETHNIC ELDERLY

Hackney Forum on Services for the Elderly and HCRE are proposing the idea of a conference for the ethnic minority elderly in Hackney. Meeting for interested parties on Fri. 22nd March at 2 pm. At the family centre, 50 Rectory Road N16.

HOW THE COUNCIL VOTED

FOR THE MOTION NOT TO SET A RATE

Labour: Ken Hanson, Joanie Andrews, John Bloom, Richard Bruce, Ann Cameron, Mary Cannon, Jim Cannon, John Chanin, Marcelle Chissick, David Clark, Lou Eustace, Richard Gee, Ruth Gee, Brynley Heaven, Linda Hibberd, Jim Holland, Peter Kahn, Hilda Kean, Anthony Kendall, Patrick Kodikara, Gery Lawless, Lester Lewis, John McCafferty, Bob Masters, Tony Millwood, Robert Owen, John Paton, Abraham Pinter, Andrew Puddephat, Denise Robson, Steve Scott, Shuja Shaikh, Betty Shanks, Chris Spencer, Phil Stott, Richard Taylor, Jim Warner, Brian Weller, Martin Whitfield.

Liberal: George Wintle.

AGAINST

Labour: Charles Cable, Bella Callaghan, Charles Clarke, Sam Cohen, Maureen Colquhoun, Clancy Etienne, Max Feldman, Howard Pallis, Sam Springer.

Liberal: Walter Carmoody, Peter Friend, David Gamper, Victoria Lubbock, Sylvia Venables.

Conservative: Bernard Lansman, Joe Lobenstein, Christopher Sills.

Not Present: John Kotz, Jeffery Roberts, Matilda Owen.

immorality is there in taking a moral stand against an immoral and iniquitous Act of Parliament?"

The Tories also put an amendment to increase the rates by 15%, involving substantial cuts in Council expenditure. This was greeted with derision by the Labour councillors and the public. The Tories were roundly attacked by speaker after speaker, particularly as they failed, as Anthony Kendall pointed out, to condemn the anti-democratic nature of the Rates Act.

Package

Their package, Patrick Kodikara claimed, would mean the loss of 2000 Council workers' jobs.

Speaker after speaker rose to point out that what they were doing was taking an historic step. "This is a meeting about local councillors doing the job they were elected to do," said Betty Shanks. "I for one will take anything that is coming to me."

Gery Lawless said: "We shall

and was widely seen as a device for Charles Clarke to get out of voting for the full motion. He was heckled throughout his speech for his "loss of bottle", as was Joanne Andrews who seconded the amendment. The amendment was lost, and Andrews and a number of Labour councillors then voted for the substantive motion. Clarke and 8 other Labour councillors did not. (See 'List of Shame' below).

The debate was now reaching its climax, and the motion was put to the vote after Hilda Kean had replied to the debate.

The Mayor, Ken Hanson, managed to ask for a recorded vote without fluffing his lines, for once, and the chief executive read out the names of all the councillors, who answered For or Against.

It quickly became obvious that Hilda Kean and the leadership were going to win the day. Most of the councillors who were rumoured to be wavering voted for the motion. One or two of the



Pic: Neil Martinson

Charles Clarke: Not "at this stage."

List of shame

Nine Labour councillors joined the Tories and five of the Liberals in voting against the motion not to set a rate. Four of these, Charles Cable, Bella Callaghan, Sam Cohen and Max Feldman, are from the old guard spirit of the Kotz and Ottolangui days, even though Cohen, for one, was once in a Broad Left opposition faction, and Cable voted for illegality before, in 1972, in opposition to the Health government's Housing Finance Act.

The other five Councillors lost their bottle in different ways. Charles Clarke is a rare attendee of Council meetings these days. He works for Neil Kinnock now as one of his personal aides, and is certainly keen on going far in the Party. His excuse will be that the Council refused to accept the technical amendment that he proposed which would have brought it into line with some - but not all the other ratecapped councils. This is a shameless piece of opportunism to hide the fact that he either hasn't the nerve to declare himself for illegality or that he thinks that he'll get Neil Kinnock into trouble. Whichever it is, his already low rating in the Hackney Labour Parties will sink further. And if he still thinks he'll get nominated for the Hackney North parliamentary seat, he'll have to think again.

Maureen Colquhoun is, as always, in a complicated position which probably only she herself understands. When she was first elected to the Council, she was part of the Kean/Lawless hard left opposition to the soft Kendallites. But her position since then has moved to the right and her attitude to the Town Hall unions has become extremely hostile.

Clancy Etienne gives the

impression that he is heartily sick of being a councillor and will probably not stand again. His ward party, Northwold, have always thought that he wouldn't go for illegality.

Howard Pallis is a solicitor which puts him in a slightly dodgy position, since the Law Society is supposed not to approve of solicitors advocating breaking the law. Like Clarke, he was once closely associated with the Kendallites and the soft left. Most of these went illegal, as did many other members who were once regarded as being considerably more right wing. Councillors who are also solicitors or barristers in other boroughs have voted for illegality. It remains to be seen whether they are reprimanded by their professional bodies. Although Howard Pallis voted against illegality, his wife Marcelle Chissick voted for it, in the only disagreement amongst the four married couples on the Council over the issue.

Severe

Perhaps the most severe defection in the Labour ranks was that of Sam Springer. Here is a man who has had the Labour whip removed in the past for voting against a rent increase in the Ottolangui days. He also voted against implementing the Housing Finance Act in 1972. These are probably his last days on the Council, since he is virtually inactive in his Rectory ward and he has quit his job as a bus driver to become the ultra respectable figurehead for a group trying to set up a black bank. The men with the money would not take kindly to him voting to break the law, and he knows it.

SCHOOL'S OUT!

Two hundred and fifty Hackney teachers went on strike on March 12, 13 & 14 as part of a national campaign to improve pay and defend teachers' working conditions.

Susa Burrows, secretary of the Hackney Teachers' union told HPP that the vote for strike action was almost unanimous. The action was limited to 18 schools: Clapton and Hackney secondary schools; Downsview special school; and Grazebrook, Laburnum, Orchard, St John the Baptist, Northwold Juniors, De Beauvoir Infant and Juniors, Gayhurst, Hackney Free and Parochial, Rushmore, Woodberry Down Infant and Juniors, and Parkwood, all primary schools.

Teachers at other Hackney schools also took part in the national action by withdrawing good will. They are refusing to do voluntary tasks, like covering for absent colleagues, supervising dinners and attending after school meetings, for which they are not paid.

During the three day action the teachers leafleted shopping centres, buses, tube stations and went from door to door to explain their case to the public.

"We've got amazing support all round," said one primary school teacher. "People were queuing up at Ridley Road

market to sign our petition. Even a policeman signed our petition. He was shocked at how little we were paid," she said.

Sir Keith Joseph is riding shotgun on the national negotiations, and the government has insisted on a single 'take it or leave it' offer of 4%. The employers are also trying to make any increase dependent on a productivity deal that would worsen working conditions by including goodwill duties in teachers' contracts.

The decline in teachers' pay has been dramatic dropping 33% in the last 10 years. While the average Hackney teacher earns around £8,000 a London police constable earns about £12,400 plus a £2,210 rent allowance.

ANGRY

The teachers are angry about the government's priorities. They point out that inflation has gone up 60% in the past 5 years - yet their salaries have increased by only 46%. Police salaries have gone up 96% and MPs have enjoyed a 144% increase.

The NUT is asking for a flat rate increase for all teachers of £1,200 per year, which represents an overall increase of about 12%.

Unholy alliance

According to a 1968 Act of Parliament every local council is obliged to find space for the accommodation of 15 caravans within the borough. These are to be provided with water, refuse collection and sanitary facilities and to be safe from objects thrown from high rise buildings - requirements that should not cause major complications to Hackney Council, with its acres of unused land.

Unfortunately complications do arise in the form of organised opposition from local residents. Nothing seems to work better for instilling a community spirit than the threat of foreign invasion. What exactly the 200-300 people present at a recent protest meeting had to fear from the fifteen caravans was spelled out in a leaflet: more accidents (?), more pollution (?!), more crime (of course) and more industrial activity (!!!)

CHECK OUT THE PICKET

Four Hackney supermarkets will be picketed in March as part of the Hackney and Tower Hamlets Anti-Apartheid group's campaign for a boycott of South African products.

The four supermarkets, which all stock large quantities of South African goods, are Sainsbury's Watney Market, Sainsbury's Kingsland Road, Sainsbury's Stamford Hill, Tesco's Bromley by Bow. The demonstrations will take place on the four Saturdays in March.

Particular concern arose over the close proximity of the prospective site of the Orchard's Primary School, an old people's home and a home for the mentally handicapped. Some of our valiant community champions seem to have forgotten the resistance put up against the opening of the latter institution a few years ago - Evidence of the swiftness of cultural integration in the inner city.

For a closer definition of whose interests are at stake Jeff Taylor, organiser and main speaker, appealed with classical grandiloquence to 'electors, ratepayers and other residents, we can win this fight if we are determined and organised'. All three categories united to exercise their own remaining community right - keeping newcomers out.

The travellers' issue serves as platform for various organisations. It was an

Susa Burrows explained: "It's not just a question of teachers being greedy for more money."

"The government don't take education seriously. The situation is very similar to ratecapping. Over the last ten years £4 billion has been cut from the education budget and yet the government is still attacking education by letting conditions deteriorate. They are also trying to take control of the curriculum."

"This is part of the attack on all our services and the people who support us can see that it is an organised attack against the working class," said Burrows.

The teachers are asking people to take up their case in trade unions, community groups, PTAs, tenant associations etc. Letters in support of teachers should be sent to ILEA, County Hall, London SE1; and Department of Education & Science, Elizabeth House, York Road, SE1.

During the three day strike 200 teachers met and passed a resolution calling on the national union to introduce a national levy so that extended strike action, rather than token walk-outs, can take place. The teachers can defeat the government, with strong public support.

effective way of filling South Hackney Parish Church at the negligible cost of sacrificing Christian sentiments. It allowed a Tory councillor to inform a Hackney audience with breathtaking audacity that the Council failed to protect local interests! The few house-owners in the area had an opportunity to defend property prices. This unholy alliance of vested economic and organisational interests is now playing upon deep-rooted popular prejudice in order to campaign for a reversal of council policy. Will the Council be swayed? Or will it derive encouragement from a statement read out by the headmaster of Orchard's Primary School, who, condemning the racist nature of the meeting issued an invitation to all children to use the educational facilities of his school?

Watch this space

Axel Klein

Anti-Apartheid group and sent to Box 30, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

The Anti-Apartheid group aims to inform shoppers of the nature of apartheid and the case for boycott and sanctions. They hope to collect pledges from shoppers that they will not buy South African products. They will be asked to sign a declaration expressing their abhorrence of apartheid and intention to boycott products of racism.

letters



WRITE TO HPP!
c/o Trojan
10a Bradbury St
London N16 8JN

CP ROW: YOU GOT IT WRONG

Dear HPP,

As someone who has read the People's Press since issue one, I was amazed at the distorted and unsigned article 'CP in Fiddles Row' (Feb '85).

This article put the Euro version of events in Hackney CP, and therefore is somewhat twisted.

You state that a majority walked out of London Congress. In fact the majority refused to be bullied by the General Secretary of the Party and stayed behind.

The Hackney branches under investigation have refuted all the allegations. Attempts

INVESTIGATION

by these branches to answer these allegations have been denied to them not only at the London Congress, but in the party press. Even if these allegations had been proven, they would not have affected the outcome of the London District Congress, as your article suggests.

If the author of the article had asked he/she would have known that out of the nine CP branches in Hackney, five oppose the Euros, hence their refusal to organise a borough Conference or have an aggregate on the present Party crisis.

If as your article suggests the Euro are so keen on 'democracy' why such an unwillingness to investigate all

MALPRACTICES

party branches and the YCL in Hackney? Is it because it would expose the Euros' malpractices?

Not so long ago the young Euros in the YCL called the police in to throw out a majority of YCL members, many of them black, from a meeting. Hardly the actions of those who believe in democracy.

The article also equates Eurocommunism with mass parties, but this is not necessarily the case as the Portuguese or Greek Parties illustrate.

A "Non-sectarian" CP certainly but not at the price of rejecting Marxism-Leninism and seeking alliances with the SDP and Tory Wets.

Yours, M. Regan

Dear Comrades,
I wrote this poem for International Women's Day 1985 and wanted to send it to working class areas I personally know and feel about - East London and SE1.
I hope you like it,

Evelyn Croft

DOLE COUNTRY

I want to go home
but don't know where to go
I want to go back
but where to?

Mahmoud Darwish says:
'My homeland is the anger of
the exile at being made to
grieve.....

Anger for what's been lost
Grief for what I've never
known
For what has not yet been

I want to come home
but don't know where to go
I want to come back
but who to

blue sky
blue flowers
blue eyes
blue movies
blue music
blue distance
blue sea
blue skies
blue-remembered hills
blue bird
toffee

I want to come back
but where to?
Eh?

DOLE COUNTRY



SUNPOWER
83 Blackstock Road,
N4

Alternative bookshop,
wholefoods and herbs.
Natural toiletries,
crafts, gifts and cards.
A workers co-operative.

Open
Mon-Sat 10am-6pm

HACKNEY SALUTES THE MAGNIFICENT MINERS

The strike has ended. The Oakdale miners who for ten months of the dispute were based in Hackney Town Hall, have gone back to Wales. But before they left HPP managed to talk to one of them, Colin Tapper, whose thoughts on the end of the strike are reproduced here:

"We've raised £110,000 from the people of Hackney. We've sent eight convoys of food to South Wales and one each to Staffordshire and to the striking miners' families in Nottingham.

The support we got from the people of Hackney, from the Labour Parties and the trade union movement as a whole, has been tremendous. Many unions have done a lot for us,

especially the council workers in the DLO, who've raised £40 or £50 a week on each site. This money kept on coming in, week after week, even in the week after Christmas, when we know people were short themselves.

We had been told in Wales by the press that the GLC funded 'extremist organisations' in London. When we got here we found that these extremist organisations were places like Chats Palace and Centerprise. Well, if these are extremist, then we want more of them, in Hackney throughout London and in the rest of the country. We'd also been told that people in London were cold and unfriendly. We found that in fact people in Hackney were as warm and compassionate as people in Wales.

The Miners Support Committee really united the left in Hackney. We had SWP, Communist Party, Labour Party people, and many non-aligned people, all working together to support the miners. More than a hundred people would come along each week to the meetings. When people came to us from Kent and other NUM areas, they said that Hackney Miners Support Committee was the best in the country. It was a model. That unity can only be good for the people of Hackney.

The feeling back in Oakdale is that the fight goes on. It was better to go back now united. It's difficult to call a man a scab who has been starved back to work. We'll be regrouping and we'll be fighting for the people who've been victimised

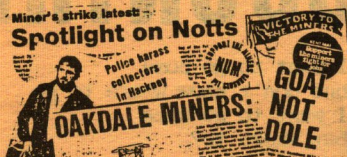
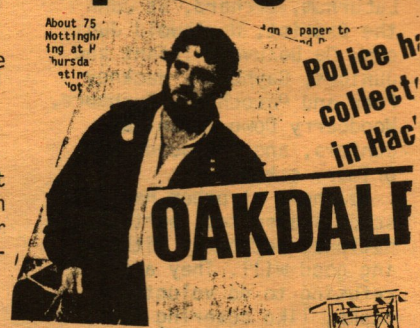
and sacked. The overtime ban will be continued until they are reinstated.

What we've done is make sure that the government will have to think twice before it takes on anyone else. Because we'll be galvanised to fight on any major cause: for the NUR, against ratecapping, for the teachers.

People are willing to work in their unions now to reunite the labour movement. We can all attack what the TUC has done, or what Neil Kinnock has done. But if we reorganise the working class movement and the labour movement we can control the TUC and the Labour Party. Where would the Tolpuddle Martyrs have been if they had done what Norman Willis and Neil Kinnock are telling us to do today?

The links between Hackney and Oakdale will never be forgotten. We'll be back often - in fact, we're coming back in two weeks for the opening of Liberty Hall!

Miner's strike latest Spotlight o



The fight goes on

The miners' strike is over but the fight against pit closures goes on. The NUM must

The miners' strike is over but the fight against pit closures goes on. The NUM must be defended against further attacks by the courts and the government.

The Hackney Miners' Support Committee will therefore be continuing its solidarity activities.

This will be kicked off by a public rally in April launching a campaign to 'Defend the NUM'. Arthur Scargill, Betty Heathfield and Hilda Kean are among the invited speakers. The Committee would be engaging in the following activities:

- o Street and workplace collections to alleviate the continued poverty in the pit communities
- o Publicising the plight of miners imprisoned during the dispute; and calling for the dropping of all outstanding charges
- o Campaigning for the reinstatement of all miners sacked during the dispute

For details of these and other activities ring: 249 8086.

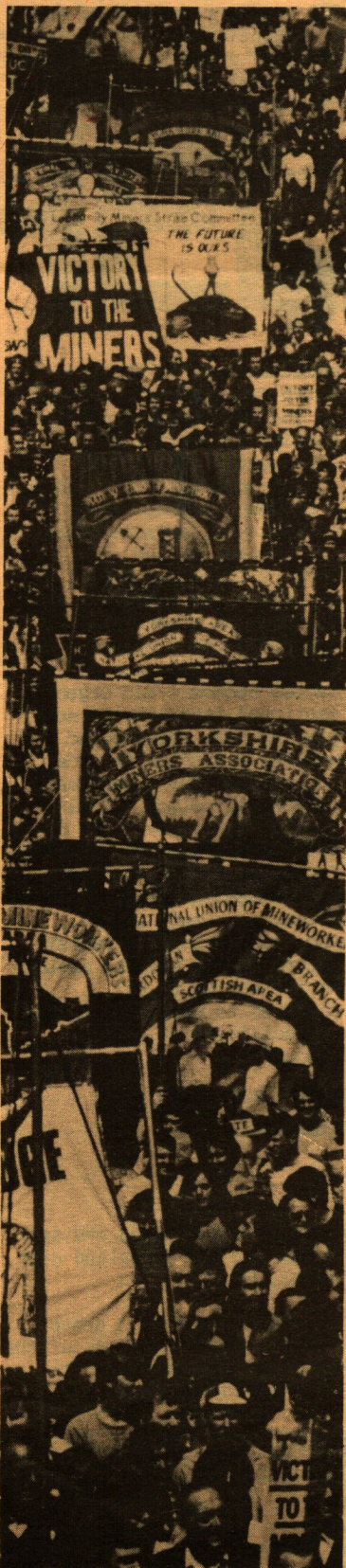
Richard Rozanski

Strong links

One of the most positive achievements of the Miners Strike is the unity the strike produced across broad sections of the community. Pre-strike days, no one would have thought that organisations like Greenham support groups would be visiting pit villages and hosting miners' wives here in Hackney. Lesbian and gay groups, the Chile solidarity campaign, the list goes on and on, have all built strong links with the miners and womens groups that grew in the strike. Never before have we seen such solidarity between working class and single issue organisations. These links will not be broken. Not only that, but miners, women and all involved have made connections in their own consciousnesses that have broken through the Tory propaganda and capitalist values we have been raised with. People are beginning to understand the nature of power in a capitalist society, and realise how we have been divided too long. Now this basic understanding is part of more and more working class people's thinking. Ordinary law-abiding women and men now realise how the police can be used to keep them in their place.

Women

One of the most important things for me from the strike was to see women in mining communities organising themselves. What I would like to see now is those women maintaining their links with other women and organising around issues of primary importance to themselves. Too many miners and other male trade unionists paid lip service to women in this strike. They recognised the invaluable role the women played, but



it was clear from the way they spoke that they still deeply believed that women are not as important as men, that women still have a traditional role which men have determined and which they insist women are happy with. We had miners staying in our house who had made all sorts of international links, connections in their consciousness with Northern Ireland, South Africa etc., but they could not recognise how much they still oppressed women themselves and refused to take 'womens issues' seriously. They see 'these womens libbers' as a threat. Unfortunately most of my left male comrades could not bear to see miners criticised in any way during the strike. It was seen as an ongst right-on groups as akin to making a racist comment. Of course, not all miners have remained entrenched in their sexism. Many of the miners I met saw feminism as a political issue. Not all the women I met will remain as their communities have constrained them in the past - they have experienced their own individual and collective power. If only men could realise the importance of this power then they would see that the other fifty-one per cent of the working class could actually rise and change this society for the sake of everyone's daughters, sons and communities as well as the mining communities.

Lastly I shall miss the 'benefits', the camaraderie and the sheer agony of standing outside Safeways in the bitter cold collecting.

Sheila Webb

HEMA

Hackney Ethnic Minorities Alliance, (HEMA), is an umbrella organisation made up of some sixty groups from the following three ethnic minority groupings in the Borough; AfroCaribbean, Asian and Cypriot.

HEMA as an umbrella organisation and the great number of its member groups have supported the Miners' struggle and their families all along.

Individually or together with other groups, we have organised benefits, collected food and money in various ways and identified very closely with their fight for jobs, and their right to preserve their communities.

Nobody should have been surprised for this understanding and support by the black and ethnic minorities of Hackney.

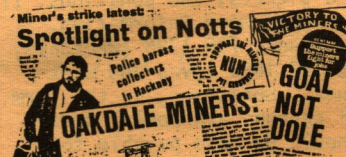
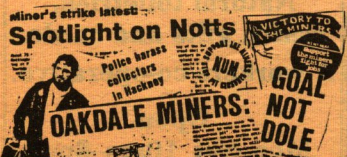
After all, what the miners and their families have suffered over the last twelve months, whether it was the denial of their jobs, threats to their livelihoods and communities or the wrath and viciousness of the Government, Coal Board, the Judiciary, and the Police; our communities have and are suffering all the time.

This does not mean that we do not appreciate and admire the remarkable courage and fighting spirit of the miners and what has now become a folklore - the involvement of the women against the pit closures.

On the contrary, for the first time and in such a clear way, two oppressed minorities, with what seemed to be completely different problems, have identified a common enemy and have joined forces.

I believe that this is the beginning and that more and more co-operation between the organised workers and our communities will take place.

HEMA within the context of fighting institutionalised racism is not different to the Miners fighting for their pits and their communities. Divided we have less chance than fighting as allies. Andreas Michaelides (HEMA)





Rice 'n' Spice

Rice 'n' Spice is the name of an unassuming - looking Indian restaurant in Stoke Newington High Street. Open about six months, it seems to be gaining a reputation for reasonably priced, well cooked food. Many of the dishes are staple Indian restaurant fare, but there are some unusual ones too. Onion bhajee for instance is a familiar dish, but the Rice 'n' Spice ones are beautiful -- a far cry from the usual lumps of overcooked, inedible fried onions. But be warned - they are very filling indeed.

Less well known, but tasty and satisfying, is Aloo chop. This turned out to be a kind of potato cake, cooked in butter and spices. Its not always available, but recommended. The somosas aren't much to write home about, but the shawee kebabs are exquisite - and nothing like the doner variety you may have sampled in the past.

Of the house specialities, lamb badam passanda, lamb in spices, yoghurt, cream and cookey incurry with herbs, is rich and satisfying. The tandoori murg masala, tandoori chicken cooked in sauce, is also good.

There aren't any sweet dishes on the menu, though you'll probably be more relieved about that than anything.

With starter, main course, rice and bread, you would expect to pay £4-£5 per head for a very filling meal.

A recent innovation is the Rice 'n' Spice Home Delivery Service, which seemstobe becoming quite popular. If you telephone your order through, a meal will appear at your door about half an hour later. The only catch is that they add on a 50p delivery charge if your order less than £9.00 worth of food.

Lea View House

With the £6.5 million estate modernisation programme at Lea View House in Upper Clapton now nearing its half-way stage, tenants have been turning their minds to what the central courtyard should look like. Groups of tenants have been visiting the site with architects, a landscape designers and the estate co-ordinator to learn first

hand about landscaping. Pictured here on just such a visit are: Judy Hackett, landscape designer; Suzanne Reid; Tracey Boyce; John Thompson, architect; Mary Keenaghan; Audrey Jaisingh; Dick Head, Estate Coordinator; Anne Corcoran; Miguel Francis; Richard Parkinson.

COUNCIL APARTHEID BOYCOTT

Hackney council is to boycott South African goods, services and official functions under its recent Anti-Apartheid Declaration.

Bishop Trevor Huddleston, president of the Anti-Apartheid movement, was a speaker at the official declaration. Other guests included representatives of the African National Congress and the South West African People's Organisation.



Forthcoming Events

Dalston Childrens Centre
Welfare Rights Workshop
Women only
6 week course, Thursdays
10 - 12 a.m. Starts Feb 28th.
112 Greenwood Road E8.
Tel. 254 9661.
CRECHE AVAILABLE.

18th MARCH
Hackney Anti-Deportation
Campaign

DEPORTATIONS AND RACIST
IMMIGRATION CONTROLS

PUBLIC MEETING
7.30 p.m. at Hackney
Town Hall (Council
Chambers) Mare St. E8.

Speakers include:
Muhannad Idrish Shahid
Sayed Georgina Buckman
Hilda Kean
Creche facilities provided



Gordon's coming

Hackney's new chief executive is to be the current GLC Deputy Director of Industry and Employment, Pamela Gordon. The Council made the slightly surprising decision to go outside its own ranks (at least two senior officers were close contenders) and the even more surprising decision to exercise a bit of positive discrimination in favour of Ms Gordon.

At the GLC, Pamela Gordon is highly regarded as a very able and efficient administrator. She will need all those skills to control the vagaries of the Hackney Senior Management Team.

COME AND SEE HOW CO-OPS PULL IN BUSINESS



*More pull, Better work,
Less of a Drag.*

COOP '85

2nd International Trade Fair for Worker Co-operatives
April 2-3 1985. The Town Hall, Kensington.

PRINTING · POSTERS · BADGE-MAKING

TROJAN PRESS

10a BRADBURY STREET
HACKNEY, LONDON N16 8JN
TELEPHONE 01-249 5771

Fill this space

We've tried to guilt trip you... we've tried to appeal to your emotions... we've tried to stir your intellect. We finally had to sell you a 7 page newspaper for the price of 8 pages, just to get our message across... We're desperate... HPP needs your

HELP!

Come to our open meeting on Wednesday 3rd April, at 7.30 pm, at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

What's On

MARCH 16th
International Womens' Day
celebration at
Wally Foster Community
Cnetre, Homerton Road.
Women only. Doors open 8pm.

19th MARCH
George Melly
(licensed bar)
Stoke Newington Assembly Hall
Church Street NI6.
Tickets from Box offices.
Tel. 739 7600 ext. 490

26th MARCH
Stoke Newington Assembly Hall
(For adress see above)
Zemel Choir 8pm.
Tickets from Box offices. Tel.
no. as above.

28th MARCH
Anti-ratcapping capers IV.
Hackney Asseby Hall; Reading
Lane E8. 7.30 pm. Licensed bar.
Tickets: telephone box. office
no. as above.

MARCH 28th

Miners benefit at
Stoke Newington Town Hall
Church Street, NI6.
with the Redskins.

Hackney Womens Centre
Social evenings for
womer, with a drink problem
A chance for women to get
together -- soft drinks,
music and creche.
Fridays 7pm -- 11pm.
27 Hackney Grove (off Reading
Lane) next to Hackney Town
Hall E8.

29th MARCH

NALGO Anti-ratcapping
Benefit
Wlaking Wounded with
Parkdown Jets and
Hackney Marshes (swamp
music)
at the Crown and Castle,
Dalston Junction 8.30 pm.

29th MARCH
Stoke Newington Assembly Hall
(for address see above)
London Community Gospel Choir
8 pm. Tickests from box offices. London E8. Tel. 249 8994

30th MARCH
St. John of Jerusalem Church
Lauriston Road E9.
The Nelson Mass (Haydn)
The Hackney Singers.
Tickets from box offices.

13th APRIL

Mustaira with the Hackney
Asian People's Association
Devonshire Square Chapel
II7 Stoke Newington Road.
Tickets from box offices.

OTHER EVENTS

16th-23rd March
Sam Uriah Morris Society
presents its second
annual exhibition
The Black Contribution to
Civilisation and Culture
at the Hackney Town Hall
Mare Street.

Mothers Day Lunch and
fashion show £6.00
For further info, please
ring Ralph Straker: 346 5614
346 5614/241 0097 or 985 0443.

Hackney Centre for the
Unemployed
485 - 489 Kingsland Rd
London E8. Tel. 249 8994

CHATS PALACE HOMERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE 42 BROOKSEY'S WALK E.9. 986 6714

Fri 7.30pm	15 Benefit for Centre For Black Women with BLACK REBEL SISTRE... EQUITY, poets and lots more. Admission by donation.
Sat 8pm	16 Women's Cabaret Extravaganza with Little Women in Which Doctor, plus Amanda Swift, Georgina Lock, plus lots more. Free.
Sun 8pm	17 *East London Troops Out celebrate St Patrick's Day with traditional Irish music, dancers, Illegal Assembly. £2/£1 unwaged.
Wed 9pm	20 Jam It Up in the bar with Jah Globe and friends. Free.
Thu 8.30pm + 8pm	21 Jive Dance Class wiith Tish Francis. Beginners welcome. £1/75p unwaged. *The London Irish Festival. Film double-bill with The Irishman and Shoals of Herring. £1.50.
Fri 8pm	22 Bands Night with Let's Wreck Mother, Tabatha's Nightmare, plus. £2.50/£1 unwaged. + QESCHLECHT AKT.....
Sat 8pm	23 *The London Irish Festival. Jim Hayes in A Horde of Unemployed Ventriloquists, and more. £2.50/£1.50 unwaged.
Wed 9pm	27 Jam It Up in the bar with Jah Globe and friends. Free.
Thu 8.30pm	28 Jive Dance Class with Tish Francis. £1/75p unwaged.
Fri 8pm	29 The Juke Joint with Sugar Ray Ford & The Hot Shots. £2.50/£1 unwaged.
Sat 8pm	30 *The Electric Gramophone Ball. Dance music of the 30s, 40s and 50s. £1.50/£1 unwaged.
Sun 8pm	31 Tommy Nutters Jazz Nite. £2 / £1.

THE RIO CINEMA
107 Kingsland High St, E8
Tel: 254 6677

MARCH

PRICES: £2.30 ADULT
£1.00 UNEMPLOYED &
SENIOR CITIZEN
UNDER 15's



● FRI 15 SAT 16 SUN 17
THE BROTHER FROM
ANOTHER PLANET
(15) 8.40
dir. John Sayles. U.S. 1984 108mins
starring Joe Morton, Tom Wright,
Caroline Aaron
Crash landing, appropriately enough,
on Ellis Island. The Brother from
Another Planet is superficially a very
ordinary extra terrestrial distinguished
only by his three toed feet, his
miracle healing of electronic gadgets
and his muteness...
(Fiona Ferguson, City Limits)

+ RICHARD PRYOR
HERE AND NOW
(18) 7.00
dir. Richard Pryor. U.S. 1984 95mins
● MON 18 TUE 19 WED 20
GLC ANTI-RACIST FILM
PROGRAMME
MON 18 RECENT BLACK
INDEPENDENTS
7.00 GREY AREA dir. Monona
Walli. U.S. 1983 40mins
ILLUSIONS dir. Julie Dash.
U.S. 1982 34mins
8.25 COLOUR dir. Warrington
Hudlin. U.S. 1983 30mins

9.00 SIGNS OF EMPIRE Black
Audio/Film Collective 1984
tape/slide
9.35 TERRITORIES Sankofa Br
1984 25mins
MEMBERS OF SANKOFA AND
BLACK AUDIO/FILM
COLLECTIVE WILL BE PRESENT
TO DISCUSS THEIR WORK.
● TUE 19
RADICAL INDIAN
CINEMA
7.00 AN INDIAN STORY dir.
Tapan Bose. India 1981 58mins
It is hoped that Tapan Bose
will attend this screening to
discuss his work. Phone
cinema for confirmation.
8.15 ARDH SATYA ('Half Truth')
dir. Utpalendu Chhabrakorty.
India 1983 130mins

● WED 20
A TRIBUTE TO YILMAZ
GUNY
6.30 THE HERD (SURU) dir. Zeki
Okten. scr. Guney Turkey
1979 120mins
8.35 YOL dir. Serif Goren scr.
Guney Turkey 1982 114mins
N.B. We are currently trying to
arrange for a screening of a new film
by Serif Goren (the director of YOL)
if this proves to be possible there
may be changes to this programme.
Please ring cinema for confirmation.

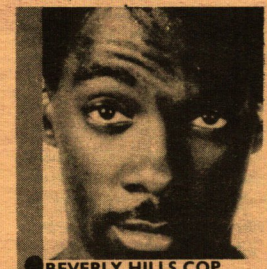
● FRI 22 SAT 23 SUN 24
MON 25 TUE 26 WED 27
REPO MAN (18) 9.00
dir. Alex Cox. U.S. 1984 92mins
The fattest slice of cool humour and
mock heroics to have come this way
in a long time; Emilio Estevez,
blankly handsome LA punk, falls in
with repo man Harry Dean Stanton,
prowling the freeways and suburban
streets to re-possess cars on which
the payments have fallen behind. But
then a nutty professor drifts into
town in a '64 Chevy with a secret in
his boot which could mean the End
of the World as We Know it.
(Chris Auty, City Limits)

+ FRI SAT SUN
CHRISTINE (18) 7.05
dir. John Carpenter. U.S.
1983 110mins
with Harry Dean Stanton,
Keith Gordon
+ MON TUE WED
KISS ME DEADLY 7.10
dir. Robert Aldrich. U.S.
1955 105mins

● FRI 29 SAT 30 SUN 31
MON 1 TUE 2 WED 3
BEVERLY HILLS COP
(15) 7.00 9.00
dir. Martin Brest. U.S. 1984 105mins
starring Eddie Murphy, Lisa Eilbacher,
Steven Berkoff.
Supposedly distraught at the murder
of his boyhood friend Foley (Eddie
Murphy) leaves his home patch to
seek out the killer in wealthy Beverly
Hills to bring the reptilian villain to
justice... Murphy with his wildly
expressive face, sea lion laugh and
brilliant timing rejuvenates the film's
old gags...
(Nigel Matheson, City Limits)

THURSDAYS

● THURSDAY 21
RIO WOMEN'S CINEMA
ADOPTION (15) 7.00
dir. Marta Meszaros Hung
1975 89mins
+ AT FIRST SIGHT (15) 8.35
dir. Diane Kurys Fr. 1982 110mins
with Isabelle Huppert
● THURSDAY 28
AI NO CORRIDA (IN THE
REALM OF THE SENSES)
7.00 & 9.00 (sep.perf.)
dir. Nagisa Oshima.
Japan 1976 105mins
'This is a remarkable work of the
imagination, a pioneering film from a
director with impeccable credentials.
And he has made as pure a study of
an obsessive physical relationship as
could be fashioned without denying
the basic power and logic of sex itself
... A sincere brilliant film.' Derek
Malcolm, The Guardian



● THURSDAY 7
THE YEAR OF LIVING
DANGEROUSLY (15) 7.00
dir. Peter Weir. Australia
1982 114mins
with Mel Gibson Sigourney Weaver,
Linda Hunt Indonesia 1965, Mel
Gibson is caught in the turmoil of an
abortive coup against a corrupt and
bankrupt regime.
+ CUTTER'S WAY (18) 9.00
dir. Ivan Passer. U.S. 1981 109mins
with Jeff Bridges, Lisa Eichhorn,
Jeff Heard

● THURSDAY 14
RIO WOMEN'S CINEMA
THE DOUBLE DAY 7.20
Dir. Helena Solberg-Ladd. U.S.
1976 50mins
+ NINE TO FIVE (15) 8.15
dir. Colin Higgins. U.S.
1980 110mins
with Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda,
Lily Tomlin
SEE OVER FOR DETAILS

● THURSDAY 21
Programme in association with the
Sam Uriah Morris Society
FUNDI: THE ELLA BAKER
STORY 7.05
dir. Joanne Grant. U.S.
1980 45mins
'Fund' is a documentary about the
life and work of Ella Baker, veteran
American Civil Rights campaigner, a
militant political activist who became
best known for her championing of
the non-violent method of civil
disobedience...
FROM THESE ROOTS 7.55
dir. William Greaves. U.S. 28mins
From these Roots is a documentary
review of the Harlem Renaissance --
a period of intense and significant
cultural flowering in the former

'black capital of America'.
RUE CASES NEGRES
(Black Shack Alley) (PG) 8.30
dir. Euzhan Palcy. Martinique
1983 103mins
Set in Martinique in the 1930s the
film is about Jose, a young boy whose
formidable grandmother guides him
away from a ruthless wage serfdom
in the cane fields to the very top of
the colonial education system.

● THURSDAY 28
TOUCH OF EVIL (15) 6.45
dir. Orson Welles. U.S.
1958 114mins
with Charlton Heston, Orson
Welles, Janet Leigh, Marlene Dietrich
+ UNDER THE VOLCANO 8.45
dir. John Huston. U.S.
1984 108mins.
with Albert Finney, Jacqueline
Bisset.

● THURSDAY 4
SILKWOOD (18) 6.45
dir. Mike Nichols. U.S.
1983 131mins
with Meryl Streep, Cher,
Kurt Russell
+ PREMIERE SCREENING OF
UNSTABLE ELEMENTS 9.00
A new film by the NEWSREEL
COLLECTIVE about British nuclear
history.



Alex Cox's REPO MAN

'This film showing how atomic
energy came to Britain should be
seen and discussed by everybody
who is interested in the control of
science, its domination by the
military, and the problems of
democratic control by our political
leaders.' Tony Benn, M.P.
Chesterfield.
SEE OVER FOR DETAILS

SATURDAY LATES

ALL LATE NIGHTS START AT
11.15pm
● SATURDAY 16
BREATHLESS (18)
dir. Jim McBride. U.S.
1983 100mins
Starring Richard Gere,
Valerie Kaprisky
+ BAD TIMING
dir. Nicholas Roeg. Br.
1980 123mins
Starring Art Garfunkel, Theresa
Russell, Harvey Keitel

● SATURDAY 23
THE SHINING (18)
dir. Stanley Kubrick. Br.
1980. 119mins
Starring Jack Nicholson, Shelley
Duvall
+ BLUE SUNSHINE (18)
dir. Jeff Lieberman. U.S. 1976 94mins
starring Zalman King,
Deborah Winters.

● SATURDAY 2
ROCKY HORROR PICTURE
SHOW (18)
dir. Jim Sharman. U.S. 1979 100mins
Starring Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon,
Richard O'Brien
+ BEYOND THE VALLEY OF
THE DOLLS (18)
dir. Russ Meyer. U.S.
1970 109mins
Starring Dolly Read, Cynthia Myers,
Marcia McBroom, Michael Blodgett.

● SATURDAY 9
BODY HEAT (18)
dir. Lawrence Kasdan. U.S.
1981 113mins
starring William Hurt, Kathleen
Turner
+ BADLANDS (18)
dir. Terence Malick. U.S.
1973 94mins
Starring Martin Sheen, Sissy Spacek,
Warren Oates.

● SATURDAY 16
RICHARD PRYOR HERE AND
NOW (18)
dir. Richard Pryor. U.S.
1984 94mins
+ BROTHER FROM ANOTHER
PLANET (18)
dir. John Sayles. U.S.
1984 108mins
Starring Joe Morton
● SATURDAY 23
THE RIGHT STUFF
dir. Philip Kaufman. U.S.
1983 193mins
Starring Sam Shepard, Barbara
Hershey, Scott Glen, Dennis Quaid
● SATURDAY 30
THE BLUES BROTHERS
dir. John Landis. U.S.
1980 133mins
Starring John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd,
James Brown, Aretha Franklin, Cab
Calloway
+ DEAD MEN DON'T WEAR
PLAID (18)
dir. Carl Reiner. U.S.
1982 88mins
Starring Steve Martin, Rachel Ward

SUNDAY MATINEES

● SUNDAY 17
BETTE DAVIS DOUBLE BILL:
HOLLYWOOD WOMEN
JEZEBEL 2.00
dir. William Wyler. U.S.
1938 104mins
with Henry Fonda
+ NOW VOYAGER 3.50
dir. Irving Rapper. U.S.
1942 117mins
with Claude Rains, Paul Heinreid

● SUNDAY 24
BLANCHE 2.00
dir. Walerian Borowczyk. Fr.
1971 92mins
+ THE RETURN OF MARTIN
GUERRE (15) 3.35
dir. Daniel Vigne. Fr. 1983
with Gerard Depardieu, Nathalie Baye
'Rural Southern France 1542, and
Martin Guerre and Bertrande de Rois,
hardly in their teens, marry. Eight
years later he returns a grown man
(Depardieu) from war and is reunited
with his faithful wife (Baye). Or is he?
Not a whodunnit, but a who is it, the
story of Martin was recorded at the
time by a Toulouse magistrate, Jean
de Coras, who adjudicated in the
case.' (Nigel Fountain, City Limits)

● SUNDAY 3
THE LEOPARD 2.15
dir. Luchino Visconti. U.S.
1963 203mins
with Burt Lancaster, Claudia
Cardinale, Alain Delon
● SUNDAY 10
THE HOME AND THE WORLD
(Ghare Baire) 2.30
dir. Satyajit Ray. India 1984 141 mins
with Soumitra Chatterji, Victor
Bannerji
'Ghare Baire' marks Rays' return to
familiar territory: it is 1908, and Nikhil,
a Westernised liberal coaxes his wife
out of purdah only for her to fall in
love with his friend Sandeep. Ray's
trademarks are all here...
(Rosie Thomas, City Limits)

● SUNDAY 17
THE IMMORTAL STORY 2.15
dir. Orson Welles. Fr. 1968 60mins
with Orson Welles, Jeanne Moreau
+ THREE CROWNS OF A
SAILOR 3.20
dir. Raul Ruiz. Fr. 1982 117mins
'Accosted by a garrulous sailor, a
student is compelled to listen to
strange fables of ports and bars, of life
on a phantom ship, of encounters with
a nine year old child. A series of
stories within stories gradually
elaborates an intimate fiction, whose
thematic surrealism is matched by
extraordinary imagery (Susan
Barrowclough, City Limits)

● SUNDAY 24
HANDS OF ORLAC
(Mad Love) 2.00
dir. Karl Freund. U.S. 1935 83mins
with Peter Lorre
+ TIME IN THE SUN
(Que Viva Mexico) 3.25
dir. Sergei Eisenstein. Mexico
1933 60 mins
+ UNDER THE VOLCANO
(15) 4.25
dir. John Houston. U.S. 1984 108mins
with Albert Finney, Jacqueline Bisset,
Anthony Andrews
A triple bill of films to place Malcolm
Lowry's outpouring of foreboding,
exile and alcoholism in cinematic
context.

EXPANDING CENTRE

Hackney Women's Centre opened its doors to the borough's women in May 1984 and ten months later its influence is extending to increasingly large numbers of Hackney women.

The Centre, which has a policy of actively combatting anti-lesbianism, racism and sexism, originally employed 4 workers but there are 3 at present, of whom one is black and two white. The workers give advice and referrals to women who phone and provide a drop-in facility for the many women who call in person. They organise the use of the Centre, liaise with other community groups and collate information regarding women's issues and activities within Hackney and throughout London. They also run the creche and kitchen facilities.

WORKERS

In addition to the workers, there are two support groups, one of which is an autonomous black women's group meeting separately and formed because the black women of the Centre felt that they wanted their own group. These support groups are a policy-making body; deal with funding, everything relating to building work and premises and running costs. The white women are currently taking part in Racism Awareness groups.

BOOKSTALL

Shortly after moving into premises, Hackney Women's Centre held its official Open-Day. From 9am to 5pm there were stalls on advice and women's rights, a feminist book stall provided by Centreprise, children's books, refreshments, videos and jumble. A women's benefit disco followed in the evening at the Fire Station in Stoke Newington.

Throughout the summer, the Centre was involved in most of the open-air festivals around Hackney and it continues to regularly attend women's events such as the recent Union of Turkish Women's International Women's Day celebration in Newington Green. The Centre's third Benefit Dance on 2nd March 1985 at the Wally Foster centre, Kingsmead Estate featured a multi-cultural costume show, disco and Azanian women's drumming and dance troupe 'Shikisha', who were excellently received by those present.

FLOOD

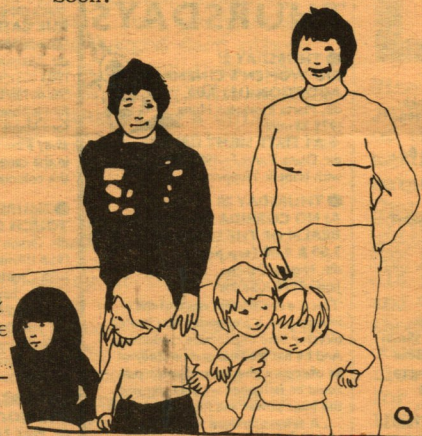
1985 started badly for HWC, with a burst water-pipe in January flooding the entire premises and putting the Centre out of action for three weeks. Not long after this a burglary resulted in the loss of most of the Centre's equipment. However, HWC is now functioning again normally.

A very important aspect of the Centre's activities are the workshops and classes for women, which are held on a regular basis. Among these are classes in: Basic English, English as a Second Language, Urdu, Keep Fit, Self Defence, Mother and Toddler Group, Asian Mother and Toddler Group and many others, details of which are available from the Centre. The workers also hope to provide a free pregnancy testing facility soon.

Future events, such as a jumble sale, Benefit Dance for Women in June and additional classes will depend on continued funding. At present, HWC is G.L.C. and Hackney Council funded until March 1985 and confirmation of further money from these sources is still pending. The Centre is looking into alternative sources of funding and any suggestions with regard to this will be welcomed.

GROUPS

HWC is also used by various local women's groups as a meeting place and, in some cases a postal address. Groups meeting there include a Girls' Refuge, Greenham Women's Support Group, the Centre for Black Women, Lesbian Workers in Hackney and a Socialist Feminist Group, who will be having their own Open Day at the Centre on March 23rd, 1.30 - 3.30 pm and they will be discussing the proposal of setting up a rape crisis line for Hackney. A Lesbian Social Evening is planned to start soon.



Service threat

A vote lost by the narrowest possible margin of one vote means that Hackney's hospital support services will now be sent out for possible privatisation. This was the result of a decision taken by the City and Hackney District Health Authority, when the majority of members decided to give into the government's blackmail.

After a heated three hour discussion, where not a single speaker defended the policy of privatisation, which one speaker called "a holy cow of the current government which we all dislike", a split vote of 8 to 9 narrowly agreed to submit a programme for competitive tendering.

All the Health Authority members who live and work in Hackney voted against privatisation. But the other nine, with no such commitment to the jobs and services of Hackney people, succumbed even though they had spoken about how privatisation was a "shambles" and "private companies were only out to make a quick buck". But the threat that the Region would steal a "notional sum that they considered we would have 'saved' if we had got competitive tenders" succeeded.

HOSPITAL THREAT

The new government-appointed General Manager of the City and Hackney Health Authority had previously threatened that unless the Health Authority members gave in to the pressure from the government to privatise support services, then the long awaited new Homerton Hospital would not be allowed to open as planned in April 1986. Health Authority members were advised to put obedience to the government's instructions before the health care needs of Hackney people.

It was also suggested that further desperately needed capital investment for the new Homerton Hospital facilities for the elderly and the mentally ill, due to start construction in the next few years, would be jeopardised, along with the repairs and improvements to Barts and to the Hackney.

A year ago, Health Authority members decided that competitive tendering was "impractical inappropriate and expensive". The District Plan for '84-'88 already involves 14% cuts in revenue, a loss of 162 beds (12%), the closure of three hospitals, and the loss of 672 staff, as well as major changes in the way health services are delivered. Privatisation takes up valuable medical and managerial time that the Health Authority can ill afford. There is no evidence that privatisation does anything to improve patient care - it means increased pressure for nurses, lower standards of cleaning, confused lines of responsibility and the undermining of the health care team that is so important for long stay patients.

Further details from Hackney Health Emergency, 489 Kingsland Road, E8.

PANEL

They voted to set up a Panel of Health Authority members to look into the legal, financial and contractual implications of competitive tendering as well as the requirements of the service and the best way to get the highest possible performance from any contractor. They will report back to the full Authority.

Health Unions said after the vote "War has been declared". Health Campaigners expressed total dismay that after representations from Health Workers, Nurses, the Health Unions, the Local Authority and all the evidence of privatisation from around the country, and in spite of their clearly expressed personal dislike of the privatisation policy and the "blackmail" elements in the new General Manager's recommendations, the vote was still lost.

"We will now be fighting to

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's OTHER Newspaper

HPP NEEDS HELP!

Do you feel strongly about anything that goes on in Hackney? Have you had enough of being fed half-digested information through our local paper and council bulletins, in articles which never get to the bottom of anything? Would you like a chance to make the news yourself, by getting involved with Hackney People's Press? If you agree with any of this, could spare an enjoyable few hours a month to - write about what people are doing in Hackney - sell papers in your area - get local support in the form of advertising - learn production skills to put the paper together once a month - take photographs then come along to our next editorial meeting. The paper is run on an equal basis by whoever is prepared to put the time and work into it - no one gets paid for anything, but everyone chooses what they want to do. HPP has survived in this way since 1973 - but we are always looking for more people to get involved. The next editorial meeting is on

WED 3rd APRIL

at 7.30pm, at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

SITUATIONS VACANT AT RADICAL PAPER

Hackney's favourite alternative newspaper is run as an open volunteer collective. HPP aims to bring people in Hackney together.

What we do is not difficult. We plan and write HPP in spare hours and lay it out over a weekend. Why not come and join us?

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £3.30 for a twelve issue subscription to Hackney People's Press, c/o Trojan, 10a Bradbury Street, N16. Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS. Please add a donation if you can afford it!

Subscription only _____

Donation of _____ enclosed

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Printed and published by Hackney People's Press, c/o Trojan, 10a Bradbury St, N.16.